



MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG www.ci.lincoln.ne.us

The Community of Opportunity

OPEN HOUSES AHEAD!

City staff is updating the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), , a six-year, billion-dollar plan for when to build and how to finance improvements to Lincoln's roads, water and sewer lines, parks, libraries, fire stations and other public facilities. Many worthy needs compete for your tax dollars, and we want to learn what citizens' priorities are among these projects. A community open house is scheduled from 6 to 7 p.m. on Monday, March 1, at the Cornhusker Hotel Grand Ballroom, 333 South 13th Street, to receive public comments on the CIP. Representatives of City departments will be available to discuss the projects in the current edition of the CIP and to record your preferences and priorities. This open house precedes the next Mayor's Town Hall, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. that evening. For more information on the CIP, contact Duncan Ross at 441-7603, or by email at dross@ci.lincoln.ne.us.

The Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force continues its efforts to formulate recommendations for broadening the City's and County's transportation plans to enhance public transit, bicycl, and pedestrian modes of travel. The Task Force has scheduled a community open house on Monday, March 8 at UNL's Van Brunt Visitor Center, 313 North 13th Street, for a dialogue with interested citizens on their ideas for transforming these other transportation modes into "Lincoln's Second Car." The open house is scheduled between 4:30 and 6 p.m., with consultants making a presentation at 5 p.m. For further information, contact David Cary at 441-6364, or by email at dcary@ci.lincoln.ne.us.



Planning Commission recommends expanding impact fee exemption for low-income housing

Last fall, the Realtors Association of Lincoln suggested that the City expand this exemption, currently limited to low and moderate income households receiving housing assistance from a state or federal program, to include households who would meet income guidelines but can purchase a home without the assistance. The Impact Fee Administrator in the Public Works and Utilities Department has been working with local realtors and builders to develop a method by which the City could certify these additional households as eligible for a fee exemption. At its **February 18** meeting, the Planning Commission unanimously recommended to approve an amendment to the zoning ordinance to expand the eligibility. This recommendation will be sent on to the City Council for final decision.

COMMONS MEETING ON ACREAGES

On March 1, the Planning
Commission will join the City
Council and County Board for
a special meeting to provide direction
on new acreage policies. Planning staff
completed three reports on this subject as
directed in the Comprehensive Plan, and as a
result, the Planning staff recommends that the
boards consider these changes in the way that
acreage developments are regulated:

In areas designated as Tier 2 and Tier 3 by the Comprehensive Plan, add "buildthrough" requirements to all new acreage subdivisions. This will smooth the transition when these areas are eventually annexed, receive city services, and are further subdivided. These areas are primarily located within Lincoln's three-mile zoning jurisdiction, but the County is likely to be providing services to these areas for the next 25 years or more.

 In areas beyond Tier 3, apply a proposed new performance scoring system and incentives for preserving open space to determine the appropriate density of development.

A draft of the proposed code amendments that would enact "build-through" requirements has been posted on our web page. If you have any questions, contact Mike DeKalb at 441-6370, or by email at mdekalb@ci.lincoln.ne.us.

Airport noise study suggests land use/zoning changes

Consultants to the Lincoln Airport Authority (LAA) last year completed an updated report on the noise impacts surrounding the airport, and have recommended that certain changes be made to our current plans and regulations. Quieter airplanes and operational changes have reduced the noise impact in recent years. As a result, some areas that were previously shown as appropriate for commercial and not residential use can be reconsidered. At the City-County Common meeting on February 3, staff discussed the potential for:

- Adopting the noise report as an element of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Amending the airport noise zoning provisions to increase the overall size of the area around the airport for which "avigational easements" are filed (these instruments are intended to notify prospective purchasers of local aircraft operations overhead), but reducing the land area that is currently subject to a prohibition of residential uses.
- Amending the land use map in the Comprehensive Plan to change the proposed use from commercial to residential on land south of West A Street, south of the airport.
- Continuing to work with the LAA and other interested parties on other potential changes to land use designation and traffic improvements in the area west of the airport.

If you have any questions about the noise study or its implications, contact Duncan Ross in our office, at 441-7603, or by email at dross@ci.lincoln.ne.us.

